

WELCOME, CANTOR RUBEL

Michelle Rubel says she grew up as an active member with her family in a Hewlett, Long Island Reform Jewish congregation very similar to B'nai Israel. She knew early on that becoming a cantor was the path she wanted to follow.

In fact, it was during the summer between 10th and 11th grade at a Jewish summer camp where amid the fun, games, and discussion groups, a song leading class she took made her feel warmly embraced by Reform Judaism.

"That did it for me. When I came home from camp, I told my parents I wanted to be a cantor," said Cantor Michelle, as she likes to be called. That joy is exactly what she hopes to bring to the diverse group of people of all ages who today make up Congregation B'nai Israel. As the new cantor, her vision is to make music something all can experience and share together.

A series of both virtual and actual events took place in July, aimed at introducing Cantor Michelle to temple members. That, however, is just the start. One of her main priorities for the short term is "getting to know the people who make up B'nai Israel and hear their stories."

"I want to find partners and dream together about some new things we might want to try in the future," she said.

Cantor Michelle and her husband, Michael, have bought a home (their first!) in Easton, moving there from Westfield, NJ, where previously she was associate cantor at Temple Emanu-El. She says she got to know about Congregation B'nai Israel in many ways before actually coming to Connecticut.

Ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2012, her classmates at different moments included a quartet of future rabbis: Evan Schultz, Sarah Marion, Jonathan Prosnit and Ethan Prosnit with whom she worked closely at Temple Emanu-El, where he is now senior rabbi. And of course, she got to know Rabbi James Prosnit and his wife Wendy Bloch when they visited Ethan in NJ.

"I feel like I've had a connection to B'nai Israel for a long time," she said.



Cantor Michelle graduated cum laude from Syracuse University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Music degree and a minor in Judaic Studies. After graduation, while training to be a cantor, she held student pulpits at Temple Israel, Miami, Fla., Temple Beth Israel, North Adams, Ma. and the Hebrew Tabernacle in New York City prior to joining Temple Emanuel as assistant cantor in 2012.

Being part of a professional team is a very satisfying part of being a cantor, and she's enjoyed getting to know B'nai Israel's Ira Wise and Alexa Cohen. In addition to providing sacred music and overall musical direction to the congregation, she wants to mentor youth and help staff and lay leadership continue to "bring more meaning, more life, more excitement and more joy" to B'nai Israel.

She said her predecessor, Cantor Sheri Blum, who retired June 30, after 26 years of service, gave her an extensive orientation on B'nai Israel, handing down a vast archive of material. "It has become obvious to me how much people loved her. It is an honor to follow in her footsteps," said Cantor Michelle.

By Don Hyman

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

Noah Aronson Concert

Join us in welcoming one of the great Jewish singer-songwriters of our day! Page 3

Staying Strong, Looking Forward

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SHARING OUR JOY...

Drs. Joanne and Steven Kant, in celebration of the birth of granddaughter Zoe Leah Blanaru, daughter of Lisa Kant and Daniel Blanaru.

Sara Laden and Jim Grutzmacher, in honor of son, State Marshal Ernest Laden, for whom the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence gave a commendation for having gone "above and beyond" in working to prevent domestic violence during the corona pandemic.

Stan and Judy Lessler, in celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Barbara and Mark Edinberg, in celebration of the birth of grandson, Leonel Félix Schuhmacher Edinberg, son of Clara Schuhmacher and Dan Edinberg.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

Robert Shook

Barbara Abraham

Ruth Schless, mother of Bob Schless

Joyce Slepian, mother of David Slepian

Arthur Nishball, husband of Ann Nishball

Bess Wallach, sister of Irving Silverman

Hyman Elias, husband of Jean Elias

Adele Ingerman

WELCOME! WELCOME!

A warm welcome to our newest members. We look forward to their participation in our many programs and hope their affiliation will not only enrich their lives, but that of our congregation.

**James Fishman &
Carol Merle-Fishman**

Cortlandt Manor, NY

Ben & Amanda Levy, Noah and Rowen
Wedgewood Drive, Easton

BULLETIN BOARD

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, August 11, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Please, if you are able to do so, consider donating by contacting the Red Cross at 1-800-RedCross and making your appointment today!

Mitzvah Morning



9:30 am Sunday, September 13
B'nai Israel's cemetery at 117 Kings Highway East in Fairfield. Over the past several decades, some of the headstones at the cemetery have endured nature's various elements and are in need of some serious refreshing.

Movie Discussion, *13th*, a continuation of our "2 Books 2 Movies" series

Following on the success of its 2017-2019 "2 Books 2 Movies" series of discussions on racism, B'nai Israel is hosting Zoom discussions on three films related to racial injustice this summer, including *Just Mercy* in June, *Suppressed* in July and *13th* this month on Tuesday, August 11th, from 7:30-8:30 pm. Participants are asked to view the film (available on Netflix) in advance and join the discussion prepared to question their own assumptions regarding mass incarceration, examine how we can and do benefit from the status quo, and how this issue connects to Jewish values.

"Although we've already screened *13th* at B'nai Israel in the past, people seem ready to learn more about systemic racism and to reflect on how each of us may be unconsciously perpetuating it. We know as Jews that the fight against systems of oppression must be fought and re-fought in every

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"Voter suppression is the story of the 2018 election in Georgia, and the documentary *Suppressed* tells this story in vivid, powerful detail...*Suppressed* reminds us all that we can fight together to achieve a future where all Americans can freely exercise their fundamental right to vote."

STACEY ABRAMS



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

LOOKING BACK AS WE LOOK FORWARD

The following is an excerpt from my remarks at our Annual Meeting, which was held on June 18, 2020.

What a year it has been for our congregation and community. I think back often to that final time we really gathered together as a community to celebrate the festival of Purim, a holiday that prompts us to turn everything upside and inside out; over three months later, we still in many ways find ourselves in such a perpetual state. Yet, how we have joined together as a community in such powerful ways over these past three months. Like the heroine of the Purim story, Queen Esther, we have raised our voices, lived our Jewish values, and looked out for the safety of one another and our community. I have had an opportunity to speak with many of you over the past three months, over the phone, on Zoom, and over email. Some in our community have really struggled, emotionally, financially, mentally. We have parents who are at home trying to work and parent young kids, adults who have lost jobs or whose work has been placed in a holding pattern. Others have struggled with loneliness, fear, and worry for the world around them. I have too spoken with congregants who have seen the world from new perspectives, found

spiritual awakenings, discovered even small blessings in their lives amidst such challenging times. And through it, our congregants have shown up — to pray together on Shabbat, to support those in need in our community, and more recently to speak up about racial injustice both locally and across our nation. There is no doubt that each person in the B'nai Israel community has in some way, shape, or form found their voice in recent months, whether pastorally, through advocacy, or through beautiful music and song...

Our community is an absolutely extraordinary one. We have seen, throughout our rich history and only amplified in recent months, the sense of responsibility and care we feel for one another. I every day feel so grateful and privileged to serve as your senior rabbi. Together we are re-imagining what it means to be a synagogue community, and I look forward to continuing dreaming together and fostering meaningful, sacred community...

“And through it, our congregants have shown up—to pray together on Shabbat, to support those in need in our community, and more recently to speak up about racial injustice both locally and across our nation.”

I want to say thank you to all of you who have stepped up over the past few months, by joining Zoom Shabbat services, classes, happy hours, and volunteering your time for B'nai Israel and the Greater Bridgeport Community. Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the synagogue both financially and with your time and expertise, as we continue to assess and think about our community going forward...

May we all continue to go from strength to strength, may we support one another in times of challenge and difficulty, and uplift one another in the moments of true blessing and holiness. I look forward to what we will create, the songs we will sing, and the sacred spaces we will craft and build together.

AUGUST 13 & 14 MUSICIAN-IN-RESIDENCE NOAH ARONSON

We are thrilled to welcome Jewish singer-songwriter Noah Aronson August 13 and 14. Join us for a concert with Noah on Thursday, August 13 at 8:00 pm and Friday, August 14 for Shabbat services at 6:00 pm. Noah is one of the great talents of our day; please come join us!

Noah Aronson is a soulful, engaging Jewish musician who has released several albums which are popular



nationwide and worldwide including throughout US progressive cantorial schools. He has a degree in Jazz Composition and Piano from Berklee College of Music and has held the position of Composer-in-Residence at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, MA. Noah currently lives in New York City and tours year-round, making over 65 community appearances annually.

MITZVAH MORNINGS ARE BACK!

Help us restart the 2020-2021 season of Mitzvah Mornings! Join us on Sunday, September 13, when we head to B'nai Israel's cemetery at 117 Kings Highway East in Fairfield. Over the past several decades, some of the headstones at the cemetery have endured nature's various elements and are in need of some serious refreshing. It will also be a nice opportunity to work with others in the Temple community, and it is always a fun and rewarding morning. We will meet directly at the cemetery at 9:30 a.m. Children are encouraged to join us, too.

Please note that face masks will be required, and we will maintain social distancing guidelines (6 feet of distance between volunteers). Since this event



will be outdoors, and because we will be following CDC protocols, we believe we can safely accomplish this task while gathering in person and spending some time together on a worthwhile cause.

Feel free to bring gloves and your own cleaning supplies.

If you have questions or wish to sign up to help, please contact Nina Silberman at ninahv@aol.com or Mitch Weinstein at mitchellew@yahoo.com.

POINT OF INFORMATION: FOUR WORTHY CAUSES TO SUPPORT

On Congregation B'nai Israel's 2020/2021 statement for annual contributions, there's a list of four worthy organizations important to the CBI community - ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America), B'nai Israel Brotherhood, Women of B'nai Israel (WBI), and the newest addition, CONECT. Below is a brief explanation of each one and more information is available on our website at <http://www.cbibt.org>. Please consider supporting any or all of them. Thank you.

1. ARZA is the Reform movement's arm and address in Israel. Its primary mission is to strengthen and enrich the Jewish identity of Reform Jews in the United States by ensuring that a connection with Eretz Yisrael is a fundamental part of that identity. ARZA works tirelessly to advocate for a Jewish, pluralistic, just and democratic society in the State of Israel.

2. The B'nai Israel Brotherhood provides camaraderie and fraternity and is an integral part of our synagogue community. Some of its successful programs include: our weekly Brotherhood Breakfast after

Shabbat morning services, Religious School barbecues — courtesy of our "Pressure Cookers" — marking the first and last Sunday of the religious school year and food service for the Purim Carnival. We've offered other opportunities, such as Sunday movies and sponsored guest speakers. The Brotherhood contributes generously to the temple's Religious School Scholarship Fund and many other charities, including Operation Hope, Jewish Family Services, Mazon (A Jewish Response to Hunger) and The Kennedy Center.

3. Women of B'nai Israel is our newly-evolved Sisterhood; an intergenerational group of active, involved, caring and sharing women. The new name was adopted in the Spring of 2018 for our temple's new Sisterhood. Its initiatives include: scholarships, purchasing furniture for our BIFTY (B'nai Israel Federation of Temple Youth) lounge, and underwriting our popular seasonal Sisters' Schmooze as well as Game Nights.

4. CONECT (Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut), a nonpartisan network of almost 30 congregations in Fairfield and New Haven Counties, advocates for criminal justice reform, immigrant rights, gun violence prevention, healthcare, and greater understanding of people from different economic, racial and religious backgrounds. In 2011, Rabbi Prosnit and B'nai Israel were founding members of CONECT. Since 2017, our CONECT team at B'nai Israel has led discussions on books and movies about racism in America, organized a voter registration campaign, and collaborated with other faith traditions on congregational security issues and justice initiatives. In December 2019 at the URF Biennial, B'nai Israel was honored with an Irving J. Fain Award in Social Justice for the Two Books, Two Movies series. Hundreds of congregants have attended discussions and CONECT assemblies. Donations to the fund will go to annual CONECT dues and on-going projects.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY/RABBI SARAH R. MARION

REFLECTIONS ON ONE YEAR AT B'NAI ISRAEL

Below is an excerpt from the remarks I delivered at our June 2020 Annual Meeting:

Needless to say, this is certainly not how I imagined that my first year at B'nai Israel would unfold! And yet, despite the unbelievable and unforeseen challenges of the past few months, I am ending this first year feeling so grateful and so proud to be a part of such a strong and resilient congregational community that is weathering this pandemic with extraordinary amounts of integrity, compassion, dedication, and grace.

I am so grateful for my incredible team of staff and lay partners, who, from the moment I started, have continuously lifted me, supported me, inspired me, and welcomed me with open and loving arms: Shari Nerreau, Larry Levine and the entire Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, Rabbi Schultz, Cantor Blum, Ira Wise, Alexa Cohen, Lynn Lynch, Chris Rocha, Tammy Caruso, Lindsay Alston, Eric Braisted, Bethann Prybylek, Elicia Kusnitz, and all of the incredible teachers in Kehilah and those in Bonim, who took care of me *and* my children — thank you for a truly wonderful first year.

And I am so thrilled and excited that Cantor Michelle Rubel has joined our team. Her energy, her ideas, her spirituality and her musical skills will undoubtedly enrich and enhance all that we do. Thank you to Barbara Solomon, Rebecca Blondin, and the entire search committee for bringing such a wonderful new clergy member to our congregation.

When I first arrived, Rabbi Schultz and I decided that I would take on a handful of specific roles and projects within the congregation, in addition to our ongoing sharing of general pulpit and pastoral

responsibilities. Here are just a few highlights:

Once I arrived, I began working with Rebecca Blondin, to coordinate, envision, and plan our weekly Shabbat morning Havurah program for families with young children. In recognition of the importance of continuing to build and nurture the “next generation” of families with young children at B'nai Israel, we also hosted a special “Baby Havurah” that was specifically geared towards families with children ages 0-2. We were amazed that around 25 families joined us that morning. Once it is safe to gather in person, and perhaps even virtually, we will continue to focus on how we can use Havurah as a platform to inspire more families with young children to engage with our synagogue community.

Revitalizing the women's Rosh Chodesh program was another endeavor this year that was particularly successful and meaningful. Our monthly gatherings, which began in October and have continued, virtually, throughout the pandemic, have engaged around 30-40 participants each time. Over snacks and delicious, homemade treats – and always with a lot of laughter and a lot of love – we studied upcoming holidays and stories about Biblical women; we made and curated an exhibit in the temple lobby that featured our own “power collages;” we got up close and personal with essential oils in conjunction with Tu B'shvat; we enjoyed our own private performance of “The Megilah Monologues” featuring our own Randy Kaye – and these are just a few of many, many highlights. And before the shutdown occurred, we were working towards a beautiful, intergenerational Passover Women's Seder – which I very much hope to be able to implement this coming year.

It was also a joy to get to know our 8th

grade “Kitah Chet” class this past year, as one of their Kehilah teachers on Tuesday nights. Our curriculum focused on social justice and our year included visits to two local organizations. On a Sunday morning in November, in partnership with our temple-wide “Mitzvah Morning” initiative, our class organized and served breakfast to the residents at Homes for the Brave, a housing and social service agency for veterans in need. And this past March, we brought some Purim joy to the residents of the Hollander House through our very own “Dr. Seuss Purim Schpiel.”

I am also excited to announce that as of this summer, I have started a virtual “Rosh Chodesh” group open to all incoming 8th grade girls. Through the lenses of Jewish tradition, pop culture and the ongoing and ever changing social and cultural realities in which we live, we will discuss issues such as self-esteem, peer pressure, body image, stress, relationships, female empowerment, and discovering and utilizing our own authentic voice. I truly believe in the transformative power of creating a safe space for teenage girls to share their fears and anxieties, their hopes and their dreams, and I am so excited to bring this important initiative to B'nai Israel.

Though the past few weeks and months have thrown many unexpected challenges our way, I look back on this first year at B'nai Israel and see so much connection, so much purpose, so much joy and so much love. And, looking forward into the future, I see so much hope and so much potential. Thank you for entrusting me with the tremendous and sacred task of leading you on this journey.



BONIM BUZZ/ALEXA COHEN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR

WE'RE BACK!! BONIM IN THE SUN 2020!

As I sit under the favorite climbing tree at my mobile desk outside the school wing door, I think about how grateful I am to be back at B'nai Israel. I am awaiting the first car to pull up so I can greet the children in person (not on Zoom) and say, "Good Morning, Chava and Malka; welcome to the first day of Bonim in the Sun." The children are happy to have their temperature taken by our non-contact thermometer. I tell them, "Before I unbuckle you, let me beep your head." I hear from the parents later that the kids told them, "Miss Alexa keeps us healthy when she beeps our head." The kids all smile and fall right back into place. And although the adults are all wearing

masks, you can see their smiles in their eyes. They are back to the comforts of home at Bonim Preschool.

The infants are now growing into toddlers and walking and talking. It is amazing what a change we see after just a few months. Everyone is a bit taller and so happy to be with other kids again. While cleaning and sanitizing takes up a good portion of our day, it is all worth it. The kids quickly learned our new rules and are happy to play in smaller groups and wash the play food and baby dolls every day. We still have so much fun in Jump Bunch with Coach Denise. We get to see her on the big screen in the chapel and

each child has their very own stretchy band, ribbon bracelet and tube sock for our special Jump Bunch activities. We splash in the sprinklers and ride bicycles through the "car wash." Our garden is getting so much love: the sunflowers are starting to come up and we water them each day. Mrs. Josovitz has prepared different STREAM activities for each class every week of camp. When we want to paint, cut, draw and glue, each child has their own box of arts and crafts supplies. Our ultimate goal is to keep the children safe by changing the environment around in a way that does not negatively affect the children's experiences.





FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER/IRA J. WISE

KEHILAH MEANS COMMUNITY — HERE AND ONLINE

As many of you know from the bulletin, my regular school family emails and the web site, the Religious School Vision Team and its three working groups have been working for the past two years to transform youth learning at B'nai Israel. We are changing from a Religious School with teachers and students to a Kehilah – a community, with educators and learners. And the change is so much more than a rebranding.

Our educators and I have been learning about and developing new lessons that incorporate experiential methodologies. This refers to the deliberate infusion of Jewish values into engaging and memorable experiences that impact the formation of Jewish identity. And they are doing so with a focus on Social, Emotional and Spiritual learning goals – reaching inside the learners, trying to connect to their hearts and souls in addition to their minds.

This summer we are spending significant time applying those principles to online learning as well developing better pedagogic skills for the Zoom medium. It is my belief that this strange COVID-19 moment, while it is so many negative things, is also an opportunity to implement many of the changes we have been developing. We don't have to worry about how change averse anyone is, since change has been thrust upon us. In March, Rabbi Schultz said that he doesn't want



us to go back to exactly what we were doing before. We should try to apply the perspective we are developing during this crisis to go back to something better. We are ready!

When we sent out the enrollment forms in May, we made it clear that we do not know for certain what Kehilah will look like in September. Digital classrooms? Physical classrooms? Some combination with alternating schedules to keep numbers low? We still don't know. We do know that we can be together to learn, to experience and celebrate as a Kehilah, as a community. And we are prepared to do it as intimately as safety and science will allow.

We will have a better idea of what Kehilah will look like by the time you see this bulletin. We know that working together with you we will continue to build a Kehilah/Community that: connects the individuals to one another and to the Jewish people as a whole; moves the needle in terms of learning of all kinds; and helps each learner and educator create and/or find many moments of radical amazement, connecting them to the wonders of our world.

L'shalom,

Ira J. Wise, D.J.R.E.
Director of Education

“We should try to apply the perspective we are developing during this crisis to go back to something better. We are ready!”

JULY/AUGUST DONATIONS

(We greatly appreciate all donations to our special purpose funds.)

Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund
David Abbey and Deborah Goodman, in memory of Harriet Abbey.

Mark Abrams, in memory of father, Albert Abrams.

Susie Blumenfeld, in honor of Samantha Portnay's Bat Mitzvah.

Bonim Parent Committee, with thanks for everything you have done all year for our children, especially in recent months we have been even more grateful for your support and hard work. Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts (big and small).

Anne C. Heine, a donation.

Molli & Stephen Hourihan, in celebration of Jonah Hourihan's Virtual Bar Mitzvah.

Jan & Bernie Jacobs, in memory of Ruth Schless, mother of Bob Schless.

Beth Lazar, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz, especially in these times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Judy & Stan Lessler, in appreciation.

Veda Lewis, in memory of Larry Newman, and in appreciation for his Memorial Service.

Carol Merle-Fishman, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz for performing the beautiful memorial service for my uncle, Larry Newman.

Gertrude Merle, in memory of Larry Newman, and in appreciation for his Memorial Service.

Fern & Michael Merle-Jones, in memory of Larry Newman, and in appreciation for his Memorial Service.

The Renzulli Family, in honor of Jonah Hourihan's Bar Mitzvah.

The Reznikoff Family, in memory of Anita Reznikoff.

Marcie & David Slepian, in appreciation for all the thoughtful words from Rabbi Schultz and Rabbi Marion at Friday night services.

Leslie & Elaine Smith, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz for performing the funeral service for Lillian Allen.

Norman & Katherine Solomon, in memory of Lillian Solomon.

Jonathan & Cleo Sonneborn, in memory of grandfather, Henry Hofheimer.

Robert A. Spitz, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz for performing the funeral service for Pauline Hankin.

Sue, Bob and Carleigh Sussman, in loving memory of grandmother, Adele Mathog Bibro.

Ken & Rita Weinstein, in memory of Joyce Slepian, mother of David Slepian.

Burton & Sheila Yaffie, in loving memory of mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Ida G Yaffie.

Fred & Ronni Zinn, in memory of Ruth Zinn.

Rabbi Marion Discretionary Fund
David Abbey and Deborah Goodman, in memory of Joyce Slepian, mother of David Slepian.

Bonim Parent Committee, with thanks for everything you have done all year for our children, especially in recent months we have been even more grateful for your support and hard work. Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts (big and small).

Linda & Barry Diamond, in memory of Ruth Schless, mother of Bob Schless.

Beth Lazar, in appreciation of Rabbi Marion, for her moving sermons, and her leadership of Rosh Chodesh and Wednesday night Twilight Zone.

The Renzulli Family, in honor of Sarah Ballas' Bat Mitzvah.

Norma Rosenberg, in appreciation of your Twilight Zone sessions.

Jonathan & Cleo Sonneborn, in memory of grandmother, Rose Sonneborn.

Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund
Donations made in honor of the birth of Winnie Noa Gleeson Prosnit, granddaughter of Rabbi Jim Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, were made by:

Laurel Greenberg and Devon Burger
The Reznikoff Family
Elaine & Marty Schwartz
Serena & Arnie Sher

Lilla Cooper, in loving memory of husband, Milton Cooper.

Caren & Bill Schwartz, in memory of

Joyce Slepian, mother of David Slepian; in memory of Ruth Schless, mother of Bob Schless.

Barbara Solomon, with gratitude to Naomi Schaffer for leading us in song during Zoom services.

Rabbi James Prosnit Discretionary Fund

The Dworken Family, in appreciation to Rabbi Prosnit for his support during the illness and passing of Myron "Mike" Dworken.

Music Fund

Harvey, Sam and Mike Bluestein and Ilene Feldman, in memory of Harvey Levine, husband of Geraldine Levine, father of Larry Levine.

Bonim Parent Committee, with thanks for everything you have done all year for our children, especially in recent months we have been even more grateful for your support and hard work. Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts (big and small).

The Brown Family, in gratitude to Claire Baker for helping to prepare Aaron Brown for his Bar Mitzvah; with gratitude to Cantor Blum for helping Aaron Brown prepare for his Bar Mitzvah, and for leading the Adult and Junior Choirs.

The Kenler Family, a thank you, and best wishes to Cantor Blum on her retirement.

Linda & Gene Koski, in honor of Cantor Sheri Blum, on the birth of granddaughter, Elz Jiana Schaap.

Judy & Stan Lessler, in appreciation.

The Reznikoff Family, in honor of Cantor Sheri Blum, on the birth of granddaughter, Elz Jiana Schaap.

Ellen & Sam Rost, in honor of Cantor Blum's retirement and outstanding dedication to our synagogue and its congregants.

Enhancement Fund

Wendy & Jeffrey Bender, in memory of Charlotte Aaron; in memory of Ruth Bender & family.

Marilyn Bissell, in memory of son,

JULY/AUGUST DONATIONS

(We greatly appreciate all donations to our special purpose funds.)

David Ziller.

Fredell Cederbaum, in memory of mother, Ann Penn.

Madelyn & Michael Cohen, in memory of dear cousin, Charlie Gursky.

Michael & Joni Greenspan, in memory of Sylvia Greenspan.

Michael Jacobson, in memory of Florence Jacobson.

Alida & Al Kleban, in loving memory of mother, Beatrice Kleban.

Beth Lazar, sending love and a virtual hug to the whole B'nai Israel Family: the Clergy, the Officers, the Teachers, the Office Staff, all Members, Security and Maintenance.

Rabbi Jennifer Mager, in appreciation.

Twody & Bob Schless, in memory of Bernie Schless.

Alice Madwed, in memory of father, Joseph Ente.

Frederic West, a donation; in memory of Abner West.

Judy Zeisler, in memory of husband, Bob Zeisler.

Debby & David Zieff, in memory of Ruth Schless, mother of Bob Schless.

Sylvia Prosnit Adult Education Fund

Bill & Lorraine Smith, in memory of Ruth Schless, mother of Bob Schless.

Bonim Preschool Enrichment Fund

Ruth & Eric Gross, in honor of the birth of Winnie Noa Gleeson Prosnit, granddaughter of Rabbi Jim Prosnit and Wendy Bloch.

Bonim Preschool Scholarship Fund

Eric & Ruth Gross, in memory of Ruth Schless, mother of Bob Schless.

Mazon

Myrna Kaufman, in memory of husband, father and grandfather, Leonard Kaufman; in memory of Marilyn and Robert Shook; in memory of Ruth Schless, mother of Bob Schless.
Laurie & Dan Schopick, in honor of Mark and Ellie Blasbalg, on the birth of grandson, Bennett.

Religious School Scholarship Fund

Marilyn & Henry Banach, in memory of Ruth Schless, mother of Bob Schless.

Molli & Stephen Hourihan, in gratitude to Cantor Blum and Claire Baker for Jonah Hourihan's Bar Mitzvah preparation.

Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund

David Abbey & Deborah Goodman, in memory of David Goodman.

Dale & Stew Barcham, in memory of Lillian Cohen, mother of Diane Bader; in memory of Wilbert Wettenstein, father of Bruce Wettenstein; in honor of the birth of Winnie Noa Gleeson Prosnit, granddaughter of Rabbi Jim Prosnit and Wendy Bloch.

Carson & Robert Berkowitz, in memory of Barbara Abraham; in memory of Ruth Schless, mother of Bob Schless.

Michael & Judy Green Blumenthal, in memory of Joyce Slepian, mother of David Slepian; in appreciation of Shari Nerreau, for her 2 years of leadership as temple president; in memory of Ruth Schless, mother of Bob Schless.

Mark & Barbara Edinberg, in memory of Joyce Slepian, mother of David Slepian.

Paula & Bob Herzlinger, in honor of the birth of Leonel Félix Schuhmacher Edinberg, grandson of Barbara and Mark Edinberg.

Beth Lazar, Mazel Tov to Rabbi James Prosnit and Wendy Bloch on the birth of their granddaughter.

Emily Lehrman & Adam Rosen, in memory of Barbara Abraham.

George & Chris Markley, Mazel tov to Judy and Stan Lessler on their 60th Anniversary.

Samuel Miller, in memory of dear friend, Marvin Gelfand.

Samuel Miller & Family, in memory of Joseph Kot.

Sheryl Santiago, in appreciation of Shari Nerreau, for her tenure as our wonderful president of the congregation.

Jeff Schwartz, in memory of Barbara Abraham.

Serena & Arnie Sher, in loving

memory of Robert Zeisler, husband of Judy Zeisler.

Jon & Cleo Sonneborn, in memory of Walter Sonneborn, father of Jon Sonneborn.

Sue, Bob and Carleigh Sussman, in loving memory of grandmother, Gussie Klahr Sussman.

Steve & Gail Unger, in memory of Jane Unger.

Etz Chaim Living Torah Fund

The Brown Family, in memory of Sheila Miller, sister of Anita Chorney.

Vision Loan Reduction Fund

Patti & Samuel Rosenberg, in memory of Robert Wilson, father of Patti Rosenberg; in memory of Barbara Abraham.

Jim Abraham Education Fund for Jewish Leadership

Donations made in memory of Barbara Abraham were made by:

David Abbey & Deborah Goodman
Philip Abraham

Carol Barsky

Michael & Judy Green Blumenthal

Alison Bonds & Larry Levine

Patricia Borghesan

Elaine and Jonathan Bowman

Laura & Bruce Braverman

Cindy & Steve Brenner

B'nai Israel Brotherhood

Bobby Bresler

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Serena & Arnie Sher, in loving memory of Jim Abraham, husband of Barbara Abraham.

Kesher Project

Lisa Bernard, with thanks to Rhea Farbman for a wonderful Zoom program and all she does to bring music to special people; in loving memory of uncle, Carl Glasser.

Melanie Light, in appreciation of Rhea Farbman's virtual programs and singalongs.

Gillette Judaic Enrichment Fund

Marsha & Bob Gillette, with hope in the future.

George & Chris Markley, in honor of Shari Nerreau, with gratitude for her outstanding leadership over the past two years.

Samuel Miller & Family, in memory of Harry Miller.

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B'nai Israel Brotherhood, a donation.
Jim & Lisa Greenberg, in appreciation of Naomi Schaffer's Shabbat musical contributions.

Ruth & Eric Gross, in appreciation of Karen Montagna for her community support and generosity during the pandemic; in memory of Lillian Cohen, mother of Diane Bader.

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Linda Liefland & Jonathan Orleans, in memory of Joyce Slepian, mother of David Slepian.



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Congregation B'nai Israel, founded in 1858, seeks to be a vibrant Reform synagogue dedicated to the perpetuation of Jewish life and values within the framework of contemporary American Judaism. We are a gateway to Judaism for all. The Congregation B'nai Israel Bulletin publishes monthly 11 times a year (except July). To submit an article, announcement or ad to the Bulletin, please contact Co-Editor, Amy Pressman at apressman@cbibpt.org or Lauren Tropp at ltropp@cbibpt.org. Submissions are due by the first day of the month preceding the publication month. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for length or style.

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generation, b'chol dor va'dor, but we may miss the signs of oppression when they are not directed squarely at us. Ava Duvernay's film 13th is a great primer on the ways in which the 13th Amendment of our Constitution, while freeing enslaved peoples, nonetheless became the blueprint for a more subtle form of slavery via the US prison system," said Emily Lehrman. Lehrman, together with Jeff Schwartz and

Rabbis Marion and Schultz, is co-hosting the discussions.

Those who have seen the film 13th previously may find fresh insights upon revisiting it, particularly in light of recent news about Covid-19 in prisons, high-profile police killings and protests for greater police accountability as well as economic and educational equity here in Bridgeport. Those

who view the film for the first time will find valuable historic details and interviews with experts from Michelle Alexander to Newt Gingrich that help to explain current events. A link to the Zoom discussion on August 11th will be circulated in the weekly B'nai Israel email.

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

All services at this time can be viewed by going to our website, www.cbibpt.org and clicking the Zoom link

Friday, July 31

6:00 p.m. Service on Zoom
Torah Portion –
Vaetchanan, Deut. 3:23-
7:11
Haftarah – Isaiah 40:1-
26

11:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Maya
Zinkerman, daughter of
Jeffrey & Anastasia
Zinkerman

Haftarah – Isaiah 51:12-
52:12

Saturday, August 1

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service on
Zoom
9:30 a.m. Torah Study on Zoom

Friday, August 14

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service
on Zoom - Led
by special guest,
Noah Aronson
Torah Portion – Reeh,
Deut. 11:26-16:17
Haftarah – Isaiah 54:11-
55:5

Saturday, August 22

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service on
Zoom
9:30 a.m. Torah Study on Zoom

Friday, August 28

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service on
Zoom
Torah Portion – Ki
Tetze, Deut. 21:10-
25:19
Haftarah – Isaiah 54:1-
10

Friday, August 7

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service on
Zoom
Torah Portion – Eikev,
Deut. 7:12-11:25
Haftarah – Isaiah 49:14-
51:3

Saturday, August 15

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service on
Zoom
9:30 a.m. Torah Study on Zoom

Saturday, August 29

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service on
Zoom
9:30 a.m. Torah Study on Zoom

Saturday, August 8

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service on
Zoom
9:30 a.m. Torah Study on Zoom

Friday, August 21

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service on
Zoom
Torah Portion –
Shoftim, Deut. 16:18-
21:9



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CHOCOLATE APPLE SLICE CAKE

This cake is easy to make and my go to. I have often made it for B'nai Israel staff birthdays including one year when I made it in the shape of a guitar for Rabbi Schultz's birthday.

Ingredients:

2 cups flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup sugar
1 pinch salt
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup vegetable oil
3 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla

Stir the above ingredients well.

Add the following:

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped nuts (optional)
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chocolate chips
4 cups sliced apples (empire and granny smith or any other)

Stir all the ingredients together.

Place in greased tube pan (bundt) and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Contributed by Alexa Cohen

